



**Hyundai SantaFe
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7:09 AM, Kanda Estate
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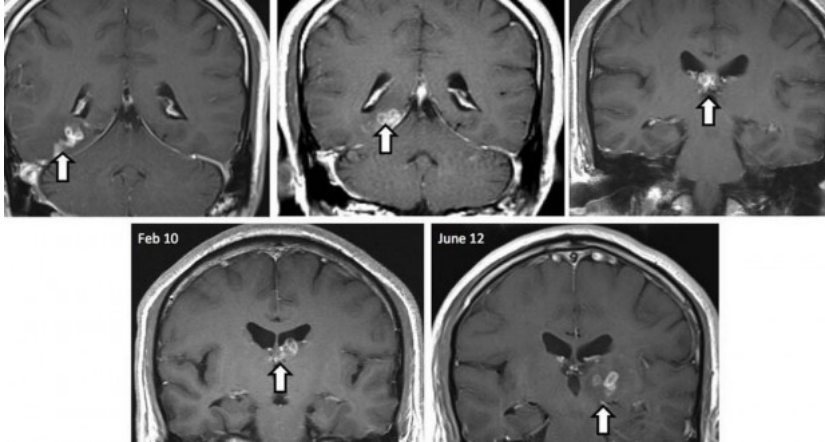


BMW 5 series 1995
6:58 AM, Tamale
Metropolitan
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Doctors find tapeworm living in man's brain for four years

Saturday 22nd November , 2014 11:53 am



A 10cm parasitic tapeworm lived in a man's brain for four years before doctors realised it was there, it has been revealed.

The 50-year-old man, who has not been named, visited doctors in 2008 suffering from headaches, seizures, memory loss and complaining about his sense of smell.

Specialists were stumped when an MRI scan showed a bunch of what appeared to be lesions that kept moving.

Scans over the next four years showed it had moved by at least 5cm through brain tissue.

Doctors at St Thomas' Hospital in London tested the man for a string of diseases included HIV, lime disease, syphilis as his condition continued to puzzle the experts.

But in 2012 medics found the remains of a "10 cm ribbon-shaped larval worm". The man was then given drugs to kill the parasite and has made a complete recovery, reports the Genome Biology journal.

Once diagnosed the man, who is of Chinese origin but lives in East Anglia, was treated easily with drugs to kill the worm and has now completely recovered.

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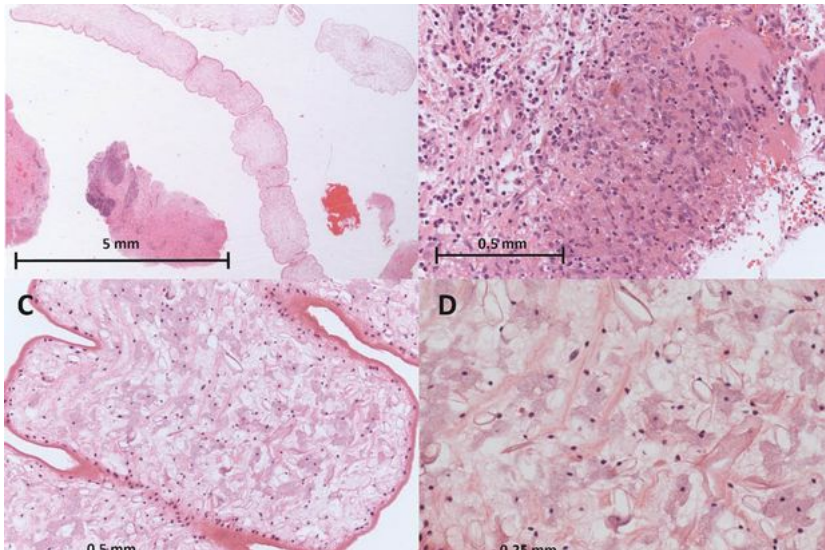
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Under the microscope: Scans show the parasitic worm

The tapeworm was a *Spirometra erinaceieuropaei* – a worm that infects domestic animals and humans. There have been just 300 reported cases worldwide since 1953 and it has never been seen before in the UK.

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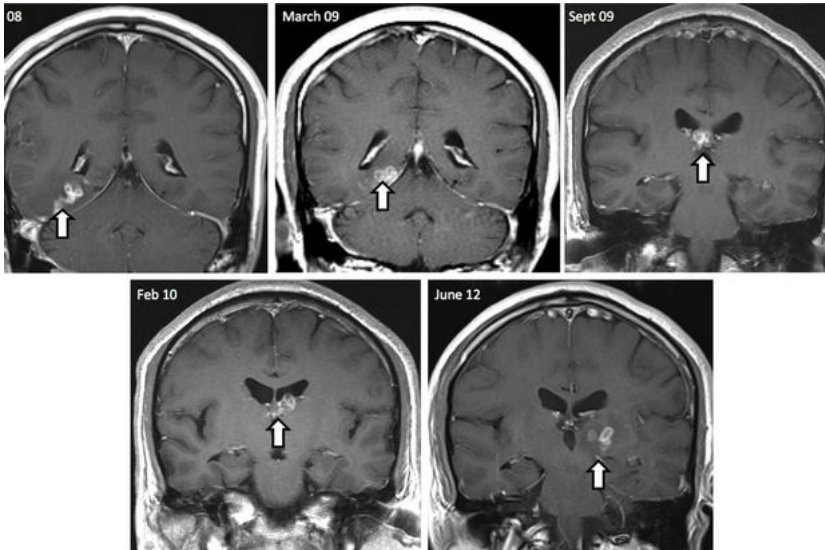
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Experts say people may be infected by accidentally swallowing infected crustaceans from lakes or eating raw meat from reptiles and amphibians.

"We did not expect to see an infection of this kind in the UK, but global travel means that unfamiliar parasites do sometimes appear," says Dr Effrossyni Gkrania-Klotsas, study author from the Department of Infectious Disease, Addenbrooke's NHS Trust.



Wriggle room: Scans dating from July 2008 through to June 2012 show how a tapeworm burrowed its way through a man's brain in the first case of its type ever seen in Britain

"We can now diagnose sparganosis using MRI scans, but this does not give us the information we need to identify the exact tapeworm species and its vulnerabilities.

"Our work shows that, even with only tiny amounts of DNA from clinical samples, we can find out all we need to identify and characterise the parasite."

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Source: Mirror UK

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